

Midland Area Transportation Study (MATS)

Technical Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 17, 2019

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 AM by Russ Inman.

Those present were: Russ Inman (Midland County Road Commission), Terry Palmer (Midland County Road Commission), Carl Hamman (Village of Sanford General Public), Gary Rogers (County Connection of Midland – via phone), Dave Englehardt (EMCOG – via phone), Jay Reithel (MDOT – Bay Region), Travis Hare (Saginaw County Road Commission), Lane Masoud (MDOT Office of Passenger Transportation), Dave Waite (Non-Motorized Representative), Jan Yuergens (Midland Dial A Ride Transit), Bryan Gillett (MATS), Maja Bolanowska (MATS).

2. Changes to the Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda requested.

3. Approval of May 15, 2019, Minutes

Motion was made by Jan Yuergens and seconded by Jay Reithel to approve the minutes of the May 15th, 2019 meeting. Motion carried.

4. Public Comment

There were no public comments brought before the Committee.

5. Reports of officers

A. Project Updates

Jay Reithel reported that MDOT is still regularly monitoring the Buttlers Road Diet test.

Travis Hare reported that the roundabout project at Freeland and River Roads is on schedule.

Russ Inman indicated that many projects are underway, and that Saginaw Road in Sanford is now paved.

Jan Yuergens announced that the grant-funded project to install new mobile data terminals in DART buses has begun to be implemented. Gary Rogers reported that County Connection remains very busy, and are eagerly anticipating new buses between now and August.

6. Agency Reports

A. MATS Work Tasks Update

Bryan stated that work efforts are going well, with the FY 2020-2023 TIP currently being reviewed by MDOT, and July being taken up with PASER ratings and the annual MTPA conference. Jay inquired as to what year MATS was hosting this conference, Bryan indicated that MATS was very excited to be hosting next year and would be taking many notes this year as part of the preparation.

B. Election Results for 3 Small Municipality Representatives

Bryan announced that during the June 4th Policy Committee, the 3 Small Municipality Representatives had been elected. The 3 Small Municipality Representative openings for MATS Technical Committee will be filled by Jerome, Larkin, and Lincoln Townships for the 3 year term of July 2019 through July 2022.

C. Term of Office for Chair and Vice-Chair of Technical Committee

Bryan also reported that the Policy Committee had concurred unanimously that term of office for the positions of Technical Committee Chair and Vice-Chair be two years rather than one. Change to 2 years has been requested by Technical Committee. After an inquiry by Russ, Bryan clarified that this begins with the current term.

7. Unfinished and New Business

A. FY 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program

Bryan introduced the list of proposed amendments to the FY 2017-2020 TIP, as detailed below:

MATS FY 2017-2020 August 2019 TIP Amendment

Fiscal Year	Job no.	Amend # (CR #)	Administration Type	Phase	County	Responsible Agency	Project Name	Limits	Length	Primary work Type	Project Description	Federal Budget	Federal Fund Source	State Budget	State Fund Source	Local Budget	Total Phase Cost	AmendType	General Program Account	Total Project Cost	Job Type
2017	123507	0	FHWA	CON	Midland	Midland County	W Bradford Rd	South County Line Road to Coleman Road	0.975	Road Rehabilitation	Resurface	\$64,000		\$16,000	EDD	\$0	\$80,000	Suspended	Not Applicable		Local
2017	123507	1	FHWA	CON	Midland	Midland County	W Bradford Rd	South County Line Road to Coleman Road	0.975	Road Rehabilitation	Resurface	\$0		\$80,000	EDD	\$0	\$80,000	Abandoned	Not Applicable		Local
2019	200829	5	FHWA	ROW	Isabella, Clare, Midland, Gratiot	MDOT	US-127BR	M20 (ISABELLA) @ HOMER RD M20 (ISABELLA) @ MERIDIAN RD M20 (ISABELLA) @ COLEMAN RD	0	Traffic Safety	Traffic Signal Modernizations; connected vehicle installations.	\$7,500	STG	\$0		\$0	\$20,000	Budget	Not Applicable	\$2,085,136	Trunkline
2019	200829	4	FHWA	ROW	Isabella, Clare, Midland, Gratiot	MDOT	US-127BR	None	0	Traffic Safety	Traffic Signal Modernizations; connected vehicle installations.	\$0	STG	\$0		\$0	\$20,000	Rollup, Budget	Not Applicable	\$2,085,136	Trunkline

These proposed changes comprise of suspension and abandonment of an MCRC project, and addition of the ROW phase for one of the MDOT projects. A motion was made by Jan Yuergens and seconded by Dave Waite to approve the proposed changes to the FY 2017-2020 TIP and recommend same to the Policy Committee. Motion carried.

B. Non-Motorized Planning

Russ Inman reviewed a map of existing and potential future rural NMT routes being proposed by the Road Commission. The intent is to provide a variety of geographic locations for “loops” that will ultimately be signed and also noted on maps. These routes are for discussion purposes at this stage, and will require more input from users and stakeholders. Bryan added that MATS staff would be undertaking an update of the FY 2015 NMT Plan sometime during the remainder of this calendar year, and that these routes would be a part of that update.

Russ presented a map depicting Average Daily Traffic levels for rural roads in Midland County. These will relate to a proposed NMT policy relating ADT to the presence/need of road shoulder. Terry added that the proposed policy is based upon an estimate of what is a reasonable traffic volume to differentiate roadways in which cyclists primarily utilize the travel lane, versus roadways that will need some type of designated bicycle lane (either contiguous paved shoulder or separated path). Terry further indicated that he was requesting assistance from MATS for help in public engagement and gathering input on the maps and the policy. Both have previously been approved for release by the Midland County Road Commission.

Bryan indicated that as the materials were not submitted prior to the actual meeting, they will be uploaded to the MATS cloud drive and distributed for further action at the next Technical Committee meeting. In the meantime Terry requested that input be solicited from the committee. Dave Waite also supported this idea, as well as ensuring that the policy is integrated with similar policies at the City of Midland, possibly by making this an addendum to the existing Complete Streets policy.

C. Long Term Planning

Terry presented a draft rendering of a possible alignment for a future Waldo Road/U.S. 10 full interchange. He indicated that this development has been in discussion for many years, and that little progress can be expected unless action is taken by local agencies. Terry further indicated that attached to the rendering is a letter of support template, and solicited all members to submit such a letter.

Discussion ensued regarding various criteria for interchange reconstruction, the increased costs of construction and land acquisition as time goes on, and that some of the land had previously been offered to be donated by the current owners. After significant discussion, Jay Reithel suggested that the first step be looking for scoping funds from MDOT, to update previous studies and identify any potential issues, while providing opportunities for public input beyond letters of support.

8. Adjournment

There being no further items for discussion, the July 17th, 2019 MATS Technical Committee meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
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